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## SOME SOUTHERN MICHIGAN BIRD RECORDS.

BY NORMAN A. WOOD.

THE records in the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, apparently indicate that several species of birds are in Michigan extending their ranges to the northward, or are becoming more common. The observations on these species are included in the following notes made in Washtenaw County, with some unpublished records of rare forms.

**Marila collaris.** RING-NECKED DUCK.—Covert, 1881, records this species as "a common migrant". Since that date very few records have been made in this vicinity, and Barrows, 1912, lists it as "a scarce migrant". March 20, 1909, two were seen on the Huron River and a fine adult male, is in the Museum. On April 8, 1912, two were taken from a flock of ten, one of which is now in our collection. Other records are as follows: March 15, 1913; March 15, 1914; April 3, 6, 1914, one or two on Huron River near Ann Arbor; November 16, 1919, one was shot on a small lake near Ann Arbor. The last is our only fall record of this rare duck.

**Grus mexicana.** SANDHILL CRANE.—On May 30, 1880, the writer saw fifteen Sandhill Cranes in a wheat field in Sharon Township, in the western part of Washtenaw County. The following data were secured in Lyndon Township: May, 1896, a nest containing two eggs; May 25, 1897, a fine adult male; October 25, 1900, an adult female. In October, 1910, an adult bird was taken in the same region by Charles Clark who saw twenty in a flock on March 24, 1911. On September 15 and 26, 1915, two adult males were shot at Mud Lake, Lyndon Township, Washtenaw County both of which are now in the Museum collection. Mr. Koelz reported that he saw twenty-eight there at one time and that a few still breed in a big wet marsh near there, in Jackson County. While the writer was collecting for the Museum on Whitefish Point in the Upper Peninsula, in 1912 and 1914, several birds were seen and hunters said they bred there in the big swamps.

**Astur atricapillus atricapillus.** GOSHAWK.—Covert, in 1881, lists this species as "a rare winter visitor" which coincides with the experience of the writer who has only the following records for Ann Arbor: an adult male, January, 1897; an immature male, November 20, 1898; December 18, 1917, adult male. When this species wanders south it seems to follow the shores of the Great Lakes, and only rarely occurs inland as far as Ann Arbor.

**Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis.** ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK.—

This species only occurs in Washtenaw County as a rare migrant. The first ones were seen by the writer on January 2, 1888. The next ones were noted March 15, 1897, and March 20, 1899 (a fine male taken in a trap). Since 1899 it has been recorded October 5, 1908; October 30, 1909; March 23, 1912; January 1, October 15, 1917; October 18, 1917 (a bird in black plumage). The writer saw many of this plumage phase among the hundreds that were migrating in May, 1914, at Whitefish Point, Chippewa County, Michigan.

**Aluco pratincola.** BARN OWL.—Although this southern species has always been listed as rare in Michigan, many recent records show that it is more common than was formerly supposed. The range covers the Southern Peninsula and there is a record of its occurrence near Sault Ste. Marie. There are twenty records for Ann Arbor and vicinity, made at all seasons of the year. Some of the Washtenaw County records are October, 1890 (the first Michigan bird seen by the writer); October 15, 1898, three taken in a swamp; August 25, 1895; May 13, 1900; December 12, 1904; August, 1906; October 15, 1909; April 28, 1912; May 11, 1912, adult female; June 16, 1919, adult male; September 20, 1919, adult female; October 22, 1919.

**Cryptoglaux acadica acadica.** ACADIAN OWL.—This species is a rare migrant and occasional resident in Washtenaw County. On May 23, 1879, a nest was reported near Ann Arbor, and on January 10, 1881, three were taken in a small tamarack swamp. Other records are December 10, 1896; May 5, 1897 (an adult female that no doubt had bred that season); February 1, 1905; November 30, 1910; April 24, 1915; November 20, 1915 (two seen and one taken). Since that latter date none were reported until April 9, 1919, when one was taken at Ann Arbor.

**Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina.** EVENING GROSBILL.—There are no records of this species for Ann Arbor previous to January 10, 1887. Since then it has occurred here on the following dates: common from January to April 12, 1890; about fifty observed April 14, 1889; a few seen in 1904 at Ypsilanti; November 25, 1916, six seen in Ann Arbor; November 28, 1908, a few noted; from January 19 to March, 1911, a flock of twenty recorded by the writer about Ann Arbor feeding on the seeds of the ash maple; February 7, 1919, four were seen in Ann Arbor by the writer, and a flock of thirteen was observed in Ann Arbor on January 5, 1920, by A. D. Tinker.

**Loxia curvirostra minor.** CROSSBILL.—Covert, 1881, lists this specimen as "a very rare winter visitor." The writer's records are March 18 to 27, 1869; the winter of 1874; May, 1880, three shot in an orchard a few miles from Ann Arbor; March 31, 1885, a small flock seen in an orchard by the writer; March 26, 1883, Dr. J. B. Steere, collector; November 7, 1908, a flock of twelve seen feeding on the seeds of evergreens on the University campus; November 18, 1913, two shot from a small flock

near Ann Arbor; January 5, 1914, five birds seen in Ann Arbor, April 7, 1914.

***Loxia leucoptera*.** WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL.—In 1881 Covert lists the species as a "rare winter visitant," but gave no record of its occurrence. The writer considers it rarer than the preceding species and has but four records since 1870. Dr. J. B. Steere collected one on March 26, 1883, at Ann Arbor. On November 5, 1899, three of these birds were seen on the campus extracting seeds from the cones of a small pine. They were near the ground and so tame that the writer could almost touch them. One was taken and six seen near Ann Arbor on January 19, 1907. On December 20, 1906, a single bird was found in a car loaded with wheat. This bird was kept alive until May; the plumage was oddly marked with feathers of greenish yellow. On July 31, 1916, a juvenile bird was found dead in the water of Douglas Lake, Cheboygan County, Michigan, this being the most southern summer record for Michigan. It may have been raised there as it was too young to have flown far. There is but one Michigan breeding record (Butler, *Birds of Indiana*, 1897, p. 922) for Delta County, Michigan, April 21, 1891.

***Pinicola enucleator leucura*.** PINE GROSBEAK.—This is a much rarer winter visitor in Washtenaw County than the Evening Grosbeak. The first record is a specimen in the Museum taken at Ann Arbor November 17, 1870. It occurred again in the winter of 1874-5. The writer has seen it only once: on December 23, 1913, a flock of about twenty stayed at Ann Arbor for some time feeding on frozen apples and buds of the evergreen; the last time they were observed being January 1, 1904. The only subsequent record is that of January 1, 1907, when two were seen and one specimen taken.

***Ammodramus savannarum australis*.** GRASSHOPPER SPARROW.—At Ann Arbor in 1881 this species was listed as a "rare summer resident," but it was not seen by the writer until May 11, 1895, when it was noted in a few meadows. It is now quite a common, though a local, breeder, and is found as far north as the "Saginaw Grand Valley."

***Passerherbulus henslowi*.** HENSLOW'S SPARROW.—In 1880 this species was listed as a "very rare summer visitor" at Ann Arbor. Our earliest specimen was taken May 26, 1894, and breeding birds were collected in the county near Manchester, June 23, 1917. The first specimen seen by the writer was a fine male found dead at Ypsilanti on April 18, 1908. Another specimen was taken on May 1, 1909, and two more were seen on May 16, in Ann Arbor. Each year since 1909 the species has increased in numbers and is now found breeding in several favorable localities. They have been reported from Eaton and Oakland Counties, the third tier of counties from the south.

***Chondestes grammacus grammacus*.** LARK SPARROW.—In 1880 this species was listed as a "rare migrant" at Ann Arbor, but the writer did not see it until April 20, 1895. Since that date several have been

noted in Washtenaw County, and it is now a rare resident all over the southern part of the state.

**Spiza americana.** DICKCISSEL.—This species was first observed in Washtenaw County in 1877, and again in 1903–4. On June 30, 1909, numbers were nesting in the meadows near Ann Arbor, but these were the last seen in the county. In 1899–1900 it was found breeding near Grand Rapids, in Clinton and Ionia Counties, seventy-five miles to the north. The species has now apparently withdrawn from nearly all of southern Michigan.

**Vermivora pinus.** BLUE-WINGED WARBLER.—This bird is a rare visitor or summer resident in southern Michigan. One was reported from Mackinac Island by S. E. White (Auk, X, 1893, p. 227). Three of the few noted in Michigan have been taken at Ann Arbor as follows: May 5, 1890, an adult male, in the writer's collection; May 1, 1896, an adult female taken by the writer; May 4, 1919, a fine adult male collected by Walter Koelz.

**Protonotaria citrea.** PROTHONOTARY WARBLER.—This southern species was first recorded from southwest Michigan in May, 1891 (Butler's Birds of Indiana, 1897, pp. 1922–1923). Since that date it has been found over most of the southern half of the Lower Peninsula and seems to be increasing in favorable localities. The writer first saw the nest of this species in a wet swamp about 20 miles northeast of Ann Arbor on May 8, 1896. It was not observed again until May 20, 1907, but since then it has become quite common along the Huron River, where it breeds in the swamps.

**Wilsonia citrina.** HOODED WARBLER.—Although Covert, 1881, says this species is "a rare summer resident" the writer can find neither the data nor the skins. Mr. Robert H. Wolcott observed it in Washtenaw County on May 13, 1887, and an immature female in the Museum collection was taken near here in 1880. The writer during fifty years of bird work in this vicinity has seen but one, an adult male found at the edge of the Huron River, near Ann Arbor, on April 7, 1912. On September 4, 1917, the writer noted both adults and young near Harbert, Berrien County, Michigan, where one was taken, August 31, 1917, by H. B. Sherman.

**Opornis agilis.** CONNECTICUT WARBLER.—This is another species which seems to be increasing in Michigan. On May 20 and 22, 1879, Charles Gunn recorded two (Nuttall Bull. IV, p. 186). At Ann Arbor the first one was taken by Covert, May 17, 1880. The writer's first specimen, an adult male, was taken September 9, 1896, and no others were seen in Washtenaw County until May 15 and 20, 1905. The following spring furnished the earliest spring record, May 2, 1906. In 1907 the species was observed on May 18, 30, and 31. On the last date the writer collected a pair. The last spring record for that year was June

6, when a female was seen at the "overflow," a dam on the Huron River near Ann Arbor. Other records are as follows: May 17, 1908, two seen; May 28, 1910, one seen; May 17 and September 20, 1912, one seen; May 8, 22, 23, 1913, one seen; May 25, 1918, one found dead on the University campus; September 14, 1918, one seen by A. D. Tinker. In September, 1919, Mr. Koelz found this species quite common near Alpena, Michigan; and the writer saw numbers of them along the Galien River in Berrien County the last week of May, 1918 and 1919.

**Cistothorus stellaris.** SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN.—This is another species that has apparently extended its range northward in Michigan even to the south shore of Lake Superior. The writer found a colony in a wet marsh in Chippewa County in July, 1914. Local colonies occur about Ann Arbor, nesting in June in wet meadows, and more are being found each year.

**Baeolopus bicolor.** TUFTED TITMOUSE.—The writer's first record is October 7, 1878. On October 5, 1886, three were taken at Ann Arbor and a few have been noted at intervals since then as follows: January 1, 1898; October and December 1903, one seen by writer; March 24, 1907, one seen and a nest found by A. D. Tinker (Auk, Vol. XXV, pp. 322-323); observed January 2, 18, 26, 1916; February 4, and March 17, 1917; October 6, and 21, 1918. It is fairly common in Berrien County in southern Michigan.

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## GENERAL NOTES

**An Oil-Soaked Loon (*Gavia immer*) at Watch Hill, R. I.**—While walking along the beach at Pleasant View on July 30, 1921, I noticed a large water bird leaving the surf and hobbling up to the dry sand of the beach. In progressing the legs were of little aid, being used laterally in pushing the bird forward; the wings arched down till they acted on the sand much as crutches would with a person. Even the bill was utilized in this strange method of propulsion. First impressions were of a wounded cor-morant, duck or some such waterfowl, but as we drew near, I saw that it was an immature Loon. Before we could secure it, however, back it went into the water, and diving into the nearest breaker, rapidly swam out before reappearing. Something, however, was amiss. The Loon described a large semicircle before getting very far out and returned to the beach one hundred yards or so away. Running to the spot we intercepted the bird and managed to secure a neck-hold so as to carry it to my cottage. Greasy hands soon told the story—the Loon had fallen victim to the heavy black oil that is taking such toll of marine bird-life of late